

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-04 OMB-01 /059 W
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R 131727Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8564
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4885

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, OAS, CU, HO

SUBJECT: GOH RELATIONS WITH CUBA

1. AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ HAD CONVERSATION WITH MINFIN ACOSTA ON NOVEMBER 12. ACOSTA STATED THAT GOH HAD ADOPTED POSITION OF SUPPORTING THE LIFTING OF THE SANCTIONS ON CUBA AT THE QUITO MFM BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THAT THE COUNTRIES IN FAVOR OF REMOVING THE SANCTIONS HAD THE NECESSARY TWO-THIRDS VOTE. ACOSTA OBSERVED THAT EH REGIME HAD BECOME THE TARGET OF ATTACKS FROM THE OPPOSITION FOR ITS POSITION AT THE CONFERENCE.

2. ACOSTA STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO A LIFTING OF SANCTIONS SO THAT IT COULD REESTABLISH COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA. HE RECOGNIZED THAT AT THE HEIGHT OF HONDURAN TRADE TO CUBA PRIOR TO THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS THE AMOUNT INVOLVED WAS ONLY 3 MILLION DOLLARS. HOWEVER, HE ALSO SAID THAT HONDURAS NEEDED EVERY POSSIBLE MARKET TO IMPROVE ITS PRESENT PRECARIOUS TRADE POSITION.

3. ACOSTA SAID THAT THE GOH WAS INTERESTED IN SELLING TIMBER
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AND MEAT TO CUBA. HE MUSED WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE

TO INTERPRET THE TRADE IN THOSE COMMODITIES TO BE INCLUDED
WITHIN THE PROVISION OF THE MFM SANCTIONS RESOLUTION PERMITTING
THE SENDING OF MEDICAL AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CUBA.
ACOSTA SUGGESTED THAT THE UNITED STATES

MIGHT TAKE THE
INITIATIVE IN SUCH A MOVE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOH IS AWARE
THAT CASTRO HAS NOT GIVEN UP HIS INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL
AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: THE DEFEAT OF THE ATTEMPT TO REMOVE SANCTIONS
HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN A BLOW TO THE GOH. THE REGIME HAD EXPECTED
TO JUSTIFY ITS TRADE WITH CUBA ON THE BASIS OF LIFTING THE
SANCTIONS IN QUITO. HOWEVER, THE GOH NOW RECOGNIZES THAT THE
ATTEMPT FAILED, THEREBY LEAVING IT OPEN TO ATTACKS FROM THE
OPPOSITION ON THE ONE HAND AND THE INABILITY TO TRADE WITH
CUBA WITHOUT CONTRAVENING THE SACTIONS ON THE OTHER.
ACOSTA'S CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR CLEARLY
INDICATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DISTURBED ABOUT THE COURSE OF
EVENTS AND IS CASTING ABOUT FOR RATIONALIZATIONS TO ALLOW A
RESUMPTION OF TRADE WITHOUT CREATING FURTHER DOMESTIC OR
EXTERNAL DIFFICULTIES.
SANCHEZ

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NNN

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